



Department of Justice

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District of Montana

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MONTANA MAN SENTENCED FOR RECEIPT AND POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

BILLINGS – Jason Saari, a 24-year-old resident of Butte, was sentenced today to a term of 72 months in federal prison in connection with his guilty plea to receipt and possession of child pornography. Saari was also ordered to pay a special assessment of \$200, forfeit his computer equipment, and will be under supervision for 15 years.

In an Offer of Proof filed by the United States, the government stated it would have proved at trial the following:

In June of 2005, during an investigation into allegations of child pornography distribution by users utilizing the peer-to-peer file sharing network, Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents discovered a person in Butte who offered to share child pornography via a file sharing program.

On a number of occasions in June and July of 2005, various images and movie files of child pornography were located on the computer in question. ICE Agents tracked the computer IP address to the residence of Saari in Butte. The agents executed a search warrant on Saari's residence on August 10, 2005.

Saari's computer equipment was seized and forwarded to a forensic laboratory for analysis.

The analysis revealed numerous items of child pornography that Saari had received and possessed via the Internet during May - August 10, 2005, including a large number of images depicting prepubescent children and children engaged in sadistic or masochistic abuse or other depictions of violence.

When questioned, Saari admitted that he had begun searching the Internet for child pornography in May of 2005 when he purchased his computer, using file sharing programs. Saari reported that he was the only person who used the computer, and that he knew that child pornography was wrong. Saari claimed that he did not know he was sharing child pornography with others on the Internet when using the file sharing program. Saari admitted that he used the Internet to receive and possess the child pornography found on his computer. Saari used the computer equipment to access the child pornography.

Because there is no parole in the federal system, the "truth in sentencing" guidelines mandate

that Saari will likely serve **all** of the time imposed by the court. In the federal system, Saari does have the opportunity to earn a sentence reduction for “good behavior.” However, this reduction will not exceed 15% of the overall sentence.

The investigation was conducted by the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Assistant United States Attorney Marcia K. Hurd prosecuted the case.

“This case is being brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys’ Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov/.”

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